13th July 1957]

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The proposal of the Municipal Council, Tiruchirappalli, has been accepted subject to certain conditions.

SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : May I know the conditions, Sir?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The original proposal was to have meters for the taps. That means about 4,000 meters will be required. Then there will be the question of availability, repair and all that. Therefore the municipal council has now modified the proposal and has proposed to increase the tax at the tap rate system, and that has been accepted.

Religious Endowment lands

* 100 Q.—SRI K. B. S. MANI (on behalf of Sri C. Muthiah Pillai) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state whether the Government have given any directions to officials concerned regarding the assignment of Endowment lands as house-sites to tenants already in occupation?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No such directions have been given.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, the present rules under the Endowments Act are that the lands belonging to the temples should not be leased to the tenants for more than five years and that once in five years leases have got to be auctioned. In these circumstances, tenants enjoying lands in Madras City, especially near Kodambakkam, are not in a position to construct pucca houses on those lands, because they run the risk of the auction of the lands every five years. Therefore, will the Government consider the possibility of revising the rules and instructing the Endowments department to lease the lands permanently so that the tenants may construct pucca houses?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There should be no difficulty in advising the temples and other institutions to sell these sites outright to tenants, who have been in occupation of them. As regards leases, this question will be examined.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Is it not a fact that no temple authorities have power to sell it permanently to anybody under the existing Act?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may tell the hon. Member that there should be no difficulty in authorizing the temple authorities to sell the land for this purpose.